MMR_0043 Dr. Robert E. Chait

Below: Outgoing president Mike Brestel presented Dr. Robert "Doc" Chait with the President's award and the "Fellow of the NMRA" award for his years of outstanding volunteer work in support of the NMRA and its goals and values. Doc has been responsible for the personal recruitment of dozens of NMRA members. He regularly volunteers and works at the NMRA booth during the National Train Show. His welcoming demeanor and enthusiasm for model trains and the NMRA enables him to attract many new members. — *both, Stephen M. Priest photos*

Robert "Doc" Chait wearing suit jacket and tie
Photo July 29 through August 6, 2012, Grand Rapids Michigan Convention

Achievement Program's MMR No. 43

Dr. Robert E. Chait
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Bob Chait is approaching 40 years old, married, and has two girls, neither of whom has an undying attraction for trains. He is a practicing dentist which comes in very handy in the hobby. Like most boys, Bob received a train set while quite young, but unlike most this set did not ignite a burning desire to be a model railroader. His early youth was spent in building model ships and model airplanes. With the failure of his ship models to float and his airplanes to fly he looked for better and greener pastures. His search ended with the purchase of a Varney paper and wood kit in 1948, and Bob has been a model railroader ever since.

Shortly after building the Varney kit, the Chucklehead and Ticklefoot Railroad was founded, and has been in active operation in many different areas ever since. The railroad at present is a six by twelve foot layout with a loop to loop trackplan. It is fully scenicked and completely wired, and Bob says "What's more it even runs." Bob has many phases of interest in model railroading, but his two main ones are construction of cars and structures; and the interchange of private railroad name cars with other model railroaders. At present, this is his main interest and his interchange collection numbers about 150 cars, approximately 110 of which came from different modelers. Bob also maintains an active tape correspondence with many model rails from all over the country and Canada. All were originally contacted through car exchanges.

On the C & T diesel is the king, much to the kidding from his many steam type railroad friends. But, Bob does have a soft spot for any type Camel back and the Pennsy T-1. And, visitors will have to look hard to find examples of these models tucked away among the herd of diesels.

Bob holds seven AP Certificates in addition to MASTER MODEL RAILROADER, these are: Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Engineer—Civil, Engineer—Electrical, Association Volunteer, and Model Railroad Author. He is now working on the Certificate for Scenery.

Bob has been active in the Sunshine Region as a Volunteer, is a member of the South Florida Society of Model Engineers.

Dr. Robert Ernest Chait

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